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Buenos Aires, Argentina

July 14, 1977

OFFICIAL-INFORMAL  
UNCLASSIFIED

Honorable Patricia Derian  
D/HA  
Department of State  
Washington, D.C. 20520

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Dear Patt:

It was good to hear from you last Monday, even if the occasion was one of shared dismay. Today's wireless file brought additional news of your speaking to the Press Club and also mentioned that you were about to be consecrated as an Assistant Secretary. In my innocence I had always thought that a Coordinator had considerably more stature than an Assistant Secretary.

During our telephone conversation I did not mention, as I had earlier in a letter to Fred Rondon, that we should not really have been too surprised at some of Ambassador Hill's remarks, because his political pedigree is well-known and goes back consistently at least 30 years. On one other aspect of the articles, I believe the Ambassador's memory has not served him well. While he was clearly uncomfortable with, and certainly not enthusiastic about the human rights policy, his execution of instructions in the human rights area, both before and after the election, was good and he did somehow find ways to force himself to carry out administration policy. I think it is unfortunate that he chose to publish the remarks that appeared in the magazines down here, and so informed him some time ago when the issue first arose. Though its very difficult to assess the effect of the articles, I suspect that the damage that they may have caused and the popularity he may have reaped from them may both be transitory.

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One of your old admirers in the Foreign Office, Minister Arlfa, amused our delegation at Grenada and earned the nickname "The Primitive" from his own people because of his heavy-handed style. He asked me recently when you would be visiting again, because he hoped to have a chance to talke with you once more. You seem to have found your way to his heart, but have made no impression whatsoever on a very thick head--his views are as hard-line as ever.

Best regards,

Sincerely,



Maxwell Chaplin  
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

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